

CONSIDERATIONS AND PROCEDURES IN THE PLANNING PROCESS*

Recognize the rights of citizens to participate in planning decisions

Strive to give citizens (including those who lack formal organization or influence) full, clear and accurate information on planning issues and the opportunity to have a meaningful role in the development of plans and programs

Strive to expand choice and opportunity for all persons, recognizing a special responsibility to plan for the needs of disadvantaged groups and persons

Assist in the clarification of community goals, objectives and policies in plan-making

Ensure that reports, records and any other non-confidential information which is, or will be, available to decision makers is made available to the public in a convenient format and sufficiently in advance of any decision

Strive to protect the integrity of the natural environment and the heritage of the built environment

Pay special attention to the coordination of decisions and the long range consequences of present actions

*Excerpts for Ethical Principles in Planning- American Planning Association.
www.planning.org

RATS CONTACT INFORMATION

Jon Paul Diipla, Transportation Planner
City of Rockford/ RATS
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104
815/ 987-5628 (voice); 815/ 967-5078 (fax)
e-mail: jonpaul.diipla@rockfordil.gov

Gary W. McIntyre, RATS Planner
City of Rockford/ RATS
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104
815/978-5638 (voice); 815-967-5078 (fax)
e-mail: gary.mcintyre@rockfordil.gov

RATS

**Rockford Area Transportation Study
Metropolitan Planning Organization**
City of Rockford, Public Works Department
425 East State Street, Rockford, IL 61104

COORDINATED PUBLIC TRANSIT-HUMAN SERVICES
TRANSPORTATION PLAN
(HSTP)

HUMAN SERVICES TRANSPORTATION PLAN (HSTP)

The Human Services Transportation Plan is a locally developed, coordinated transportation plan that identifies the transportation needs of individuals with disabilities, elderly individuals and persons with low income. The purpose of the plan is to determine the needs and concerns of public transit users in the Metropolitan Planning Area and to develop strategies that will address and remedy these concerns. The overall goal is to increase the efficiency of services provided to public transit dependent populations.

The HSTP is required by the federal Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The plan is also necessary to receive funding for transportation through certain Federal Transit Administration funding sources.

The Draft RATS HSTP can be obtained by downloading it from the RATS webpage under the Public Review Documents Section, <http://www.rockfordil.gov/government/works/index.cfm?section=planning&id=977> or through contacting RATS Staff.

Public comments will be accepted regarding the HSTP from November 28th, 2007 until January 4th, 2008.

FEDERAL FUNDING SOURCES

The HSTP needs to be developed in order to receive funding from the following Federal Transit Administration (FTA) programs:

(1) Section 5310 Elderly Individuals and Individuals with Disabilities

(2) Section 5316 Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)

(3) Section 5317 New Freedom

For more information on these programs, please refer to Section 4 in the RATS HSTP or Federal Circulars **FTA C 9045.1, FTA C 9050.1** and **FTA C 9070 1F**. The FTA Circulars can be obtained through the FTA website www.fta.dot.gov or by contacting the FTA at (202) 366-4043/(800) 877-8339 (TTY).

HOW DOES THE HSTP PLANNING PROCESS ASSIST IN HELPING TRANSIT DEPENDENT POPULATIONS?

By acknowledging the transit gaps and needs that exist for transit dependent populations, solutions can be developed

Interaction and coordination among Human Service and Transportation Providers will help each other to understand what services are provided

Through interaction and coordination, providers can determine where they can combine efforts to increase efficiency and provide solutions to transportation needs



HOW CAN HUMAN SERVICES, TRANSPORTATION PROVIDERS AND THE PUBLIC INTERACT?

Human service and transportation providers as well as members of the public can attend any of the RATS Mobility Subcommittee meetings. The RATS Mobility Subcommittee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of each month at the YWCA in Rockford, IL, which is located at 4990 E. State Street.

The RATS Mobility Subcommittee was created to address the various transportation issues in the Metropolitan Planning Area. Among its duties are to assist in the development of the RATS HSTP, assist in exploring other possible mode choices and transportation services to adjacent areas to RATS and to act upon associated issues as identified by the RATS Technical and Policy Committees. Further information can be obtained by contacting RATS Staff.



THE RELATIONSHIP AND IMPORTANCE BETWEEN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND TRANSPORTATION

Accessible transportation is important to get people to and from work, activities, etc.

Transportation systems are used by the public on a daily basis. Transportation options are a vital component of citizens livelihoods

Your opinions are valuable and essential in improving transportation for all citizens

HOW DOES THE PROCESS WORK?

The HSTP is developed through identifying the needs and gaps in transportation for transit dependent populations. This process is undertaken through consulting with human services and transportation providers as well as consulting with the public. Once the identified transit needs and gaps are placed within the HSTP document, potential strategies are developed to address them. A Call for Projects is then published for 5316 and 5317 programs. Project proposals applying for these programs must address an identified need or gap that is stated in the HSTP. Project proposals will then be evaluated through selection criteria developed by RATS. Selected projects will then be added to the HSTP as well as to the Transportation Improvement Program. Once complete, the HSTP will be amended to the RATS Year 2035 Long Range Transportation Plan.

Funding for selected 5316 and 5317 projects will be distributed to the subrecipients by the Designated Recipient of the 5316 JARC and 5317 New Freedom (Rockford Mass Transit District). Project proposals must be submitted to RATS **no later than 5:00pm on December 28th, 2007**.

The Call for Projects and selection criteria can be obtained on the RATS webpage (previously cited) as well as through contacting RATS Staff.